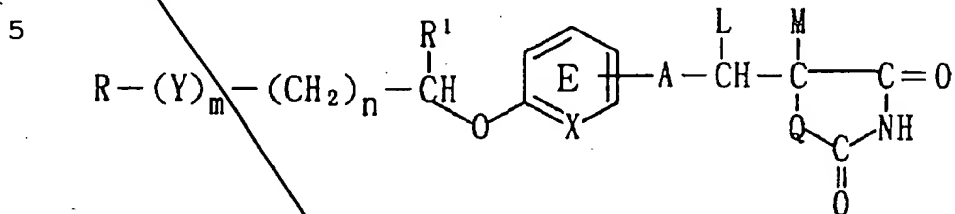


## CLAIMS

*Sub B2*  
1. An anti-inflammatory agent which affects by way of a TNF- $\alpha$  inhibitory action and comprises a compound of the formula:



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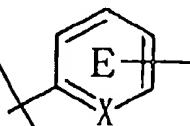
wherein R represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Y represents a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR<sup>3</sup>- where R<sup>3</sup> represents an alkyl group that  
15 may be substituted; m is 0 or 1; n is 0, 1 or 2; X represents CH or N; A represents a chemical bond or a bivalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms; Q represents oxygen or sulfur; R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group; ring E may have further 1 to 4 substituents, which may form  
20 a ring in combination with R<sup>1</sup>; L and M respectively represent hydrogen or may be combined with each other to form a chemical bond; or a salt thereof.

2. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1, wherein the heterocyclic group represented by R is a 5- to  
25 7-membered monocyclic and heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 hetero-atoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen in addition to carbon as ring members or a condensed heterocyclic group.

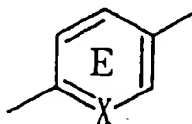
3. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,  
30 wherein R represents a heterocyclic group that may be substituted.

4. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 3, wherein the heterocyclic group is pyridyl, oxazolyl or thiazolyl.

35 5. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1, wherein the partial structural formula:



is the  
formula:



- 5 6. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,  
wherein X represents CH.
7. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,  
wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen.
8. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,  
10 wherein L and M respectively represent hydrogen.
9. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,  
wherein the compound is 5-[4-[2-(5-ethyl-2-  
pyridyl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione.
10. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,  
15 wherein the compound is (R)-(+)-5-[3-[4-[2-(2-furyl)-5-  
methyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy]-3-methoxyphenyl]propyl]-2,4-  
oxazolidinedione.
11. Method for treating or preventing a TNF- $\alpha$  mediated  
inflammatory disease in a mammal in need thereof, which  
20 comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount  
of a compound as defined in claim 1 or a pharmacologically  
acceptable salt thereof.
12. ~~Use of a compound as defined in claim 1 or a~~  
*Method of using*  
pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof for the  
25 manufacture of an agent for prophylaxis or treatment of a  
TNF- $\alpha$  mediated inflammatory disease.

add B<sub>3</sub>